

AAPG

ACTION ALERTS

Comment on Draft Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) 2017-2022 Leasing Program

Deadline: 30 March, 2015



The American Association of Petroleum Geologists supports the opening of the United States Outer Continental Slope (OCS), including the Atlantic, to responsible oil and gas exploration and production.

Now you can weigh in on what areas of the OCS should be open to future oil and natural gas development.

Send your comments on what offshore areas should be included in the next OCS leasing plan now!

Areas not included in the 2017-2022 plan will not be available for leasing through 2022.

Well-reasoned public comments are important to an often-politicized process. In 2008, Congress lifted a decades-long ban on new offshore drilling and opened new areas off

the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic coasts. These areas were included in the 2010-2015 OCS leasing plan. A revised 2012-2017 plan again closed the Atlantic to leasing.

The proposed 2017-2022 OCS leasing plan would allow for oil and gas development in the Mid- and South-Atlantic planning areas. However, the draft plan would close some areas offshore Alaska.

Comments are due by Monday, March 30, 2015.

[Read more on the draft leasing plan.](#)

To comment on the leasing plan, Docket number BOEM-2014-0096:

Comments on the draft leasing plan may be submitted by March 30, 2015, by mail or [online](#). You must include your full name and address, although you may request that your contact information be withheld from public review. Proprietary information will be kept confidential if it is appropriately identified and submitted by mail. The mailing address is: Ms. Kelly Hammerle, Five-Year Program Manager, BOEM (HM-3120), 381 Elden Street, Herndon, Virginia 20170.

[David Hawk, Chair](#)

DPA Governmental Affairs Committee

[Edith Allison, Director](#)

AAPG Geoscience and Energy Policy Office

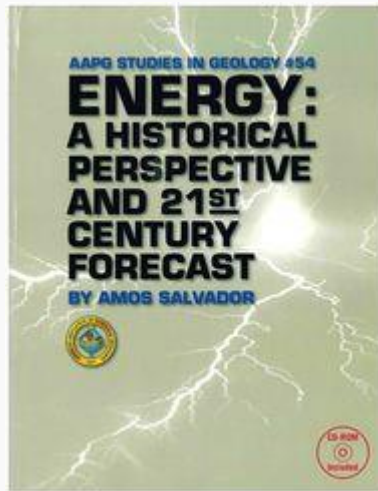
- See more at: http://www.aapg.org/about/aapg/offices/policy/action-alerts/details/articleid/16054/comment-on-draft-outer-continental-shelf-ocs-2017-2022-leasing-program&utm_medium=website&utm_source=1plus4_Plus4_Text#sthash.yrNoNSui.dpuf

Oil shale

From AAPG Wiki

(Redirected from [Oil shales](#))

**Energy: A Historical Perspective and 21st Century
Forecast**



Series	Studies in Geology
Chapter	Sources of Energy
Author	Dr. Amos Salvador
Link	Web page
PDF	PDF file (requires access)

An oil shale is defined as a fine-grained sedimentary rock that contains a high proportion of endogenous organic matter ([kerogen](#)) mostly insoluble in ordinary petroleum solvents, from which substantial amounts of synthetic oil and/or gas can be extracted by heating it to a sufficiently high temperature, a process called *retorting*. Oil shales have a low calorific value and high ash and mineral content.



Uintah Basin, Utah. Courtesy of [eTV10 News](#).

The potential of an oil shale as a source of energy depends on the economic recoverability of oil (and gas) from it. The lower limit of the oil yield for an oil shale to be considered potentially economic now ranges between 10 and 15 gal of shale oil per ton, but the development of new mining and processing technology for the oil shale or a substantial increase of the price of oil may make oil shales with lower oil yields economically attractive in the future. At present, only the oil shales with the higher oil yields are used to obtain shale oil, about 25% of the total world oil shales mined. The remaining 75% is mainly used as a solid fuel in the generation of electricity and heat (69%) and for the production of synthetic domestic gas, cement, and speciality chemical products (6%).

Oil shales are known from many countries throughout the world. They range in age from [Proterozoic](#) to [Tertiary](#), but not all are potential commercial sources of energy. Russell^[1] discusses the occurrence of oil shales in 51 countries (see also Duncan and Swanson^[2] and Office of Technology Assessment^[3]). Dyni^[4] lists 36 countries containing oil-shale deposits in a table with their corresponding estimates of in-place shale-oil resources and discusses the 14 countries with the largest of these deposits. The most important oil-shale deposits are those of the [Eocene Green River Formation](#) in the states of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming in the United States and those of the [Permian Irati Shale](#) of southern Brazil. Other significant oil-shale deposits are known in Estonia, China, Russia, Australia, Canada, Morocco, Israel, and Jordan. More than 40 other countries are reported to have oil-shale deposits, but few of them are, as of 2005, considered as possible commercial sources of energy.

In most countries of the world, the oil-shale deposits are insufficiently studied, and information concerning their size or the quality of the shale is, in many cases, lacking or, worse, greatly exaggerated.

The production of oil from oil shales is not new; a synthetic crude oil (SCO) was first manufactured in Scotland in 1694 by retorting oil shale. Significant production began from these Scottish oil shales in the 1840s and peaked in 1913 with a cumulative production of about 1.5 million bbl of oil per year. Production ended in the 1960s because it was not possible to compete with low-cost imported oil.

In 1815, commercial oil-shale retorting was started in New Brunswick, Canada, and between 1850 and 1860, more than 50 commercial plants were constructed in the United States to retort oil from shale imported from Canada. "Colonel" Drake's discovery of oil near Titusville, Pennsylvania, in 1859 closed down the oil-shale industry in the United States and Canada, but minor production continued in several other countries. Oil shale has been used in Estonia since 1916, principally as solid fuel in the generation of electricity; retorting of the shale to obtain oil has been only a small part of the oil-shale industry in Estonia; at most, only about one-third of the oil shale mined was retorted to obtain shale oil.

Since the beginning of the oil-shale industry, more than 1 billion tons of oil shale are believed to have been mined in 19 countries, 80% of it in China and Estonia.

Two general processes of recovery of shale oil have been attempted:

- mining the oil shales, either underground or in open pits, crushing, and above-ground retorting (the process so far used in all oil-shale projects)
- in-situ processing, involving drilling into the oil-shale unit, fracturing it to increase its permeability, igniting the shale, and recovering the oil thus generated through other wells.

This second process is, as of 2005, still in an experimental stage but holds promise, because it reduces the harm to the environment.

References

1. [Jump up](#) Russell, P. L., 1990, Oil shales of the world, their origin, occurrence and exploitation: Oxford, Pergamon Press, 753 p.
2. [Jump up](#) Duncan, D. C., and V. E. Swanson, 1965, Organic rich shale of the United States and world land areas: [U.S. Geological Survey Circular 523](#), 30 p.
3. [Jump up](#) Congress of the United States, Office of Technology Assessment, 1980, [An assessment of oil shale technologies](#), 517 p.
4. [Jump up](#) Dyni, J. R. 2003 Geology and resources of some world oil-shale deposits. Oil Shale, v. 20, p. 93-252.

See also

- [Energy: historical sources](#)

External links

find literature about
Oil shale



- [Original content in Datapages](#)
- [PDF available in Datapages](#)

DPA

Videos from Playmaker Forum

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Current Issue



President's Column

Valary Schulz

Elected officers of the DPA are now halfway through our collective terms, and we've made good progress in advancing our goals together. We are continuing on the theme of the past several years that, if we provide robust content we won't have to 'sell' the DPA, and the relevance of membership will be apparent. [Read more >>>](#)

Why I Chose to Be a Member of the DPA

R.C. Shoup

"Growing up in a small town in Minnesota, I was inculcated with a strong work ethic and a sense of moral responsibility. My father, a CPA, also taught me that you get out of your" -- Article is incomplete.

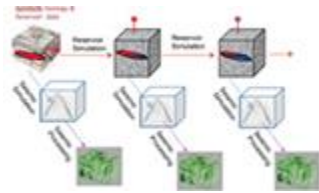
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- See more at: <http://www.aapg.org/about/aapg/offices/policy#sthash.DlcmI7H2.dpuf>

SEG



SEAM Life of Field

Join the latest project from the SEG Advanced Modeling Corporation, SEAM's new project that addresses the life of field subsurface simulation. [Read more](#)

SEG 2014 Virtual Expo

SEG Denver 2014 International Exposition

The SEG Virtual Conference and Expo is designed to bring the SEG experience to people around the world who are unable to attend the SEG Annual Meeting in Denver.

Those interested are able to view the [SEG Denver 2014 Virtual Conference & Expo On Demand](#) until 30 April 2015.

Date: 26-29 October 2014

Time: [View the Virtual Conference and Expo Daily Schedule](#)
Exposition Hall open for live chats each day
(Monday - Wednesday) 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. MST

The SEG Virtual Conference & Expo is designed to bring the SEG experience to people around the world who are unable to attend the SEG International Exposition and 84th Annual Meeting in Denver.

Experience live and on-demand technical programs and presentations as well as an interactive exhibit hall, all from the convenience of your own computer.

- Connect with companies around the world and the industry's most qualified professionals.
- Be inspired by the latest technological advances, ideas, and new products and services.
- Propel your career, your knowledge, and your company!



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In addition, the SEG Virtual Conference and Expo will also include an interactive exhibit hall, special TLE contributor videos, and a broad spectrum of SEG's social media feeds. As with all of SEG's live events, the Virtual Conference will blend information and networking opportunities for potential clients and colleagues using a variety of online tools.

Highlights include:

- An opening State-of-the-Society address by SEG President, Don Steeples
- A Forum on “Threats and Opportunities: Disruptive Innovation in Oil and Gas” chaired by Rutt Bridges
- A number of technical program presentations

Move your career and your organization forward. [Register for the SEG 2014 Virtual Conference & Expo](#). The process is quick, easy, and intuitive, and it's FREE. Just click the blue button. We can't wait to "see" you!

Still have questions? [See an example of a virtual event in this three-minute video](#).

[Floor Plan \(PDF\)](#)

[Exhibitor Prospectus \(PDF\)](#)

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SPE

- 23 MARCH 2015 | 0010 [How to Write a Good Technical Paper](#)

Byron Haynes Jr.

Duration: 90 Min **Category:** [Experts](#)

- 23 MARCH 2015 | 0830 [Addressing Infectious Diseases in Oil and Gas Workplace](#)

Malick Diara

Duration: 90 Min **Category:** [Technology](#)

- 25 MARCH 2015 | 0830 [Wellbore Stability and Strengthening](#)

Jim Friedheim

Duration: 90 Min **Category:** [Technology](#)

- 26 MARCH 2015 | 0830 CDT (GMT -5) [An Insight to Current Flow Assurance Technologies](#)

Phaneendra Kondapi

Duration: 90 Min **Category:** [Technology](#)

- 31 MARCH 2015 | 0830 CDT (GMT -5) [What about HSSE? – Why early inclusion of HSSE into enterprise resource planning efforts makes sense](#)

Jeff Morgheim

Duration: 90 Min **Category:** Technology

- 08 APRIL 2015 | 0830 CDT (GMT -5) [Well Plug and Abandonment](#)

Bart Joppe

Duration: 90 Min **Category:** Technology

- 16 APRIL 2015 | 1900 CDT (GMT -5) [Unconventional Completions - A Paradigm Shift](#)

Martin Rylance

Duration: 60 Min **Category:** Experts

- 16 APRIL 2015 | 0800 CDT (GMT -5) [Unconventional Completions - A Paradigm Shift](#)

Martin Rylance

Duration: 60 Min **Category:** Experts

- 21 APRIL 2015 | 1130 CDT (GMT -5) [An Agenda for the Lull: Coping Successfully in These Volatile Times](#)

Neeraj Nandurdikar

Duration: 90 Min **Category:** Technology

- 22 APRIL 2015 | 0830 CDT (GMT -5) [Managing Employee Fatigue through a Fatigue Risk Management Plan](#)

Paul Jackson

Duration: 90 Min **Category:** Technology

- 20 MAY 2015 | 0800 CDT (GMT -5) [Development of Mature Oil Fields: Enhanced Oil Recovery Option - AM Session](#)

Tayfun Babadagli

Duration: 60 Min **Category:** Experts

- 20 MAY 2015 | 1900 CDT (GMT -5) [Development of Mature Oil Fields: Enhanced Oil Recovery Option - PM Session](#)
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Tayfun Babadagli

Duration: 60 Min **Category:** Experts

- 17 AUGUST 2015 | 0800 CDT (GMT -5) [Selective Water-Reduction Systems: Where Have We Been and Where Are We Going? - AM Session](#)
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Larry Eoff

Duration: 60 Min **Category:** Experts

- 17 AUGUST 2015 | 1900 CDT (GMT -5) [Selective Water-Reduction Systems: Where Have We Been and Where Are We Going? - PM Session](#)

Larry Eoff

Duration: 60 Min **Category:** Experts